

December 4, 1963

Mrs. A. W. Franklin  
7565 Cunningham St.  
Highland, California

Dear Mrs. Franklin;

Thank you for your letter of November 3, which came at a very busy time. I am sorry indeed that I do not have a manuscript of the talk that I gave at the Christian Admiral Hotel to send you. I would surely like to give you any help that I can in your witnessing to our wonderful Saviour.

In that talk I mentioned a number of experiences that I had had at various times, which illustrated the fact that many educators and religious leaders of today <sup>have</sup> ~~give~~ up belief in a personal God. It has been dismaying to hear such men speak piously about "God," and then to discover that they were only referring to "a symbol for ethical value" or to some other vague idea. This is particularly true of many prominent philosophers and religious leaders. The Apostle Paul declared that in his day the pagan world, desiring to go on in its sinful way and not to be ~~interfered~~ with by God's law, had tried to put God out of its mind. Today's situation is very similar. The Supreme Court has forbidden prayer and the devotional reading of the Bible in our public schools. A strong atheistic group is trying to get the words "In God we trust" removed from our coins and to cut God altogether out from our national life.

In the face of this widespread attitude, it was most interesting to see the programs that occurred on television and on the radio after the death of President Kennedy, and to observe how many references to God occurred in them. Thus in the very first public statement that President Johnson made he referred to his need of "your help and God's." At times of national or personal crisis, every one instinctively knows that God exists, and that He is tremendously important in our lives. It is necessary, however, that we remove some of the blinders that have been put on people's eyes.

In my talk at the Christian Admiral I have an illustration that ran somewhat as follows: Let us suppose that I were walking in the woods with an atheist, and we were to come upon a clearing which contained a little cabin, with smoke coming out of its chimney. Suppose that I were to say: "Isn't it strange what we see here? I wonder how it came into existence. There must